The JWG provides a framework for strengthening cooperation to combat terrorism including, *inter-alia,* by way of exchange of information and assessments on terrorism, cooperation in preventing terrorist financing, drug trafficking and organised crime as also through capacity building.

Discussion with Pak Prime Minister Regarding Indian PoWs

1503. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government discussed with Pak Prime Minister on his recent visit to India on Indian Prisoners of War captured by Pakistan in 1971-72 Indo-Pak war, for their release; and

(b) if so, the response of the Pakistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Government have been consistently taking up with Pakistan the issue of early release and repatriation of the 54 Indian Prisoners of War (PoWs) that are believed to be in Pakistan's custody since 1971-72. The matter was also taken up during the meeting between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister of Pakistan on November 24, 2004 in New Delhi.

(b) Pakistan has not acknowledged the presence of these Indian PoWs in its custody.

Indian Criminals Hiding in Pakistan

1504. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many persons wanted for trial in India for various crimes committed in this country are hiding in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether a list of such persons was handed over to Foreign Minister of Pakistan during his visit to India in September, 2004;

(c) if so, the response of Foreign Minister of the Pakistan; and

(d) whether these persons likely to be extradited to India in near future?